

National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Middle Atlantic Region  
Region 1

Quarterly Report  
Second Quarter, Year 1 -- August - October 2001

New York Academy of Medicine

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**Quarterly Report**  
**NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region - Region 1**  
**August - October 2001**

The terrorist attacks of September 11 and their catastrophic aftereffects had a major impact on all of us, personally and professionally. Communications were seriously disrupted for several weeks; some meetings and programs were canceled. A session of Cathy Burroughs' evaluation workshop scheduled for September 21 was cancelled and RML staff attended a later session held at NLM. The fall HSLANJ meeting scheduled for September 13 was canceled.

Very soon after the attacks Michelle Volesko, library director for the New Jersey Hospital Association, contacted Mary Mylenki and proposed that the RML and the NJHA jointly plan and sponsor a workshop on reacting to information needs following terrorist attacks. Subsequently titled "Thinking the Unthinkable – Biochemical Terrorism and Disasters: Information Resources for Medical Librarians," this workshop took place in December and will be reported on in the next quarterly report.

**A. NETWORK PROGRAMS**

Staff attended annual meetings of MLA chapters in October. The Upstate NY and Ontario Chapter met in Alexandria Bay, NY, and a joint meeting of the New York-New Jersey Chapter and the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries (New England) Chapter was held in New Haven, CT. RML updates were presented at both meetings.

**Electronic Document Delivery Project**

Plans for a project to investigate and compare several methods of electronic document delivery had been announced at the annual meeting of the Resource Library directors in July; following that meeting the directors were asked whether their libraries wished to participate. By late August eight libraries were committed, and the first planning session, to be held at the RML, was scheduled for September.

The eight participating Resource Libraries are Albert Einstein School of Medicine, Albany Medical School, New York Medical College, New York State Psychiatric Institute, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Syracuse, Weill Cornell Medical College, and the New York Academy of Medicine. (University of Pittsburgh had earlier expressed interest but found it necessary to drop out.) It was coincidence that all the participating libraries are in New York State.

The first meeting of the group was held on September 28 and concluded with the agreement that Gary Byrd and Cindy Bertuca of SUNY Buffalo would draft a research plan encompassing the ideas presented, issues raised, and details that must be considered before the project could begin. The draft would be circulated for comment among the participating libraries.

### **Network Membership**

On October 25, the Network Programs Coordinator, Joanne Jahr, conducted a DOCLINE update training session for the Southeastern New York Library Resource council, focusing on routing tables and SERHOLD updating; 12 persons attended. Ms. Jahr responded to 80 telephone calls and an equal number of e-mails related to network and DOCLINE questions.

### **Document Delivery**

Ms. Jahr took advantage of the quiet vacation time to review and identify obsolete DOCUSER records to be deleted from the DOCLINE system by NLM staff members.

### **Communications**

Publication of the September-October issue of the newsletter, *Middle Atlantic Perspective*, was announced via the regional listserv MARL.

Twenty-eight messages were posted to the listserv during the quarter.

RML staff participated in all scheduled teleconferences.

### **Classes Taught**

August 1; P. Falls; PubMed/Gateway/Toxnet; South Eastern NY Library Resources Council, Highland, NY; 10 librarians. This was a mix of health sciences and other librarians. (Reporting form attached Appendix A.)

### **Grant Programs**

No report.

## **B. OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

### **Health Professionals**

Peggy Falls, Outreach Coordinator, visited several locations in upstate New York. As part of the Adirondack Outreach Project she delivered a donated computer to the Elizabethtown Community Hospital, to replace and upgrade a used computer donated in 1998.

George Constance, Education Coordinator, conducted six sessions for a total of 73 students at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. These classes introduce the students to PubMed and other NLM information resources. The program is aimed toward primarily minority students.

### **Consumer Health**

Ms. Burnham attended a CHOICES Advisory Committee meeting at New York Public Library on September 10. Erica continues to chair the METRO Consumer Health SIG; in addition to one regular meeting in October, there was a planning meeting for the health literacy conference to take place in the spring.

The RML was delighted to learn of a far-reaching result of an earlier RML-funded outreach project aimed at public libraries in northern New Jersey. The Highland Regional Library Cooperative had distributed to public libraries throughout their area a bookmark promoting their HealthSavvy web site as a reliable place for evaluating web resources in general and publicizing NLM resources in particular. (The Associate Director was pleasantly surprised to find it in her own local public library.) The bookmark was picked up by a researcher and the sites were included in the book "Alzheimer Solutions: A Caregiver's Guide."

### **Public Health**

On September 24 Ms. Mylenki attended the Partners Steering Committee meeting at NLM.

### **Exhibits**

Staff exhibited at three professional meetings.

August 19-22, IFLA, Boston, MA; P. Falls, E. Burnham, I. Austen, NLM

October 21-25, American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA; P. Falls, E. Burnham; V. Pham, NCBI

October 28-30, Community Health Centers Assoc. of NY State, Saratoga Springs, NY; P. Falls (Exhibit reports appear in Appendix B.)

Along with Javier Crespo, Region 8, Ms. Burnham taught a workshop at IFLA on August 23 in Boston, MA.

With Jo-Ann Benedetti of Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls, NY, Ms. Burnham assisted at a workshop at the NY Library Association annual meeting in Albany, October 19. The class was called "Rx for Consumer Health."

## **C. STAFF ACTIVITIES**

**E. Burnham** attended two meetings of the NOAH Content Committee.

**P. Falls** took the CE class Building & Managing Your Digital Library. As Conference Planning Chair for the UNYOC MLA chapter, Ms. Falls attended a planning session for the 2002 meeting.

**J. Jahr** served as parliamentarian for the UNYOC MLA chapter. She attended a class on Copyright Law and Digital Media. Ms. Jahr was elected to the Board of the NY-NJ Chapter and was asked to write a regular column for the Chapter newsletter, reporting on RML and NLM programs; she was later asked to provide a similar column for the UNYOC chapter.

**Meetings/Classes Attended**

“Strategies for Improving and Evaluating Library Outreach Programs,” taught by Cathy Burroughs at NLM, attended by M. Mylenki, P. Falls, E. Burnham, M. Czujak (October 11)

UNYOC meeting, Alexandria Bay, NY, October 3-5 - M. Mylenki, P. Falls, E. Burnham, J. Jahr

NY-NJ and NAHSL joint MLA chapter meeting, New Haven, CT, October 14-16 - M. Mylenki, P. Falls, J. Jahr, E. Burnham